through dugwells', Awareness Programmes and Training Courses on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water, circulation of Model Bill' to enable States/UTs to enact suitable legislation for regulations and control of ground water development and management, institution of Bhoomijal, Samvardhan Puraskar and National Water Award to encourage the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)/Gram Panchayats/ Urban Local Bodies (for population up to 1 lakh) for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge through people's participation and Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) to create awareness about water conservation and rainwater harvesting. As per the feed back received through CGWB, these measures have yielded positive impact on the ground water regime.

Losses of properties due to flood

88. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the country on an average losing 1600 lives and Rs. 1800 crore worth of properties including crops, annually due to floods. Government has proposed to pump in Rs. 8000 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan to assist States in the execution of flood management works;

(b) whether another scheme costing Rs. 1500 crore for river management works in border areas and critical flood management work in the Brahmaputra and Barak river basins; and

(c) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and whether any guidelines in this regard is issued with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide assistance to State Government, a scheme for "Flood Management Programme" with an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crore has been approved under State sector of Central Plan. A Central Sector scheme for "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas" under Central Plan has also been envisaged in Eleventh Plan under which various activities for Ministry of Water Resources and its organization are undertaken.

Guidelines for providing Central assistance to States under the scheme for Flood Management Programme have been issued to all States in December 2007.

Proposal for drinking water from rivers

89. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under active consideration of Government to get drinking water from the source of the rivers instead of getting it from the banks near the residential areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the rivers identified for obtaining drinking water and by when the water would be sourced; and

(d) how long Government would take to provide drinking water to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply have informed that there is no specific proposal "to get drinking water from the sources of the rivers instead of getting it from the banks near the residential areas". However, necessary provisions are made in various water resources projects for meeting the drinking water requirement. The National Water Policy, 2002 states that irrigation and multipurpose projects should invariably include a drinking water component, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Polavaram mega project

90. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for cancelling the approval given by the National Environment Appellate Authority for Polavaram Mega Project in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what efforts this Ministry is now making, in coordination with the State Government, for giving early approval to the project so that the State Government go ahead with the project which irrigate 7.21 acres in Krishna, Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts and generate 1000 MW of power, apart from other benefits to the people of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, National Environmental Appellate Authority while considering an appeal filed before it by the Academy for Mountain Environics against the Environmental Clearance order dated 25th October 2005 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, issued its Final Order dated 19th December 2007 quashing the Environmental Clearances order of 25th October 2005 on the ground that the public hearing conducted in Chhattisgarh and Orissa States are incomplete. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is at liberty to restart the process of public hearing from the stage at which the infirmity has crept in, complete the process and proceed further in accordance with the provisions of relevant laws in force.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh filed an appeal before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad against the orders of the National Environmental Appellate Authority dated 19th December 2007 stating that Environmental Clearance for the project has been granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi after satisfying with all the requirements under Environment Impact Assessment Notification 1954. The Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad by its orders dated 31 st December 2007 in appeal No. 4 of 2006 has suspended the orders of National Environmental Appellate Authority until further orders.

The appraisal process for Polavaram Project in Central Water Commission is completed. The State Government has to obtain Forest and Wild Life clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests so that project is put up before Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Project of the Ministry of Water Resources for considering techno-economic clearance to the project.